

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 02421 261432Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 /046 W
-----261454Z 127127 /45

P R 261344Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0712
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2421

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: MILI, PO
SUBJ: NEW VICE CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF

REF: USDAO LISBON 251913Z MAR 77

1. PRESIDENT EANES RECEIVED APPROVAL MAR 24 FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL FOR NOMINATION OF LTC JOSE ALBERTO LOUREIRO DOS SANTOS AS VICE CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF. THAT SLOT HAS NOT BEEN FILLED SINCE CAETANO FIRED THE LAST INCUMBANT, GENERAL SPINOLA.

2. BACKGROUND: DOS SANTOS, 41, IS AN ARTILLERY OFFICER, CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO INSTITUTE OF HIGHER MILITARY STUDIES. A GRADUATE IN THE SAME MILITARY ACADEMY CLASS AS EANES, DOS SANTOS WAS FIRST IN HIS CLASS. HE SERVED IN ANGOLA DURING THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 02421 261432Z

AFRICAN INSURGENCY AND ATTENDED THE BRAZILIAN ARMY GENERAL STAFF COURSE IN 1972. FOLLOWING THE APRIL 1974 COUP HE SERVED AS THE NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA REP IN SAO TOME AND LATER AS PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. DOS SANTOS WAS A MEMBER OF THE "GROUP OF NINE" WHICH OPPOSED PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES IN 1975. DOS SANTOS RECEIVES FOUR STARS IN HIS NEW JOB AND AUTOMATICALLY BECOMES A MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY

COUNCIL.

3. OPPOSITION TO APPOINTMENT: NOMINATION OF DOS SANTOS WAS IMMEDIATELY CONTESTED BY ELEMENTS OF THE UPPER ECHELON OF THE MILITARY (REFTEL). EANES'S DIPLOMATIC AIDE TOLD POLCOUNS MAR 25 THAT PRESIDENT WAS WORRIED OVER ATTACKS ON HIS DECISION BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT BREVET PROMOTIONS SHOULD BE ELIMINATED. AIRA LEARNED MAR 25 THAT FOUR AIR FORCE GENERALS HAD OFFERED THEIR RESIGNATIONS TO AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF LEMOS FERREIRA. SOARES CONFIDENT VICTOR CUNHA REGO OBSERVED THAT IT WAS A VERY BAD APPOINTMENT, AND COMMANDERS FROM THE LISBON MILITARY REGION REPORTEDLY MET WITH REGION CHIEF VASCO LOURENCO TO VOICE THEIR OPPOSITION. OPPOSITION TO DOS SANTOS IS BASED ON QUESTION OF BREVET PROMOTIONS AND HIS ALLEGED LEFTIST ORIENTATION. CUNHA REGO, FOR EXAMPLE, DESCRIBES HIM AS A "MELOANTUNISTA".

4. COMMENT: APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHIEF WAS BADLY NEEDED. THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND ADEQUATELY TO HIS ROLE AS CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF. AS A RESULT THERE WAS LITTLE INTERSERVICE COORDINATION. EMBASSY SOURCES SO FAR HAVE PROVIDED NOTHING CONCRETE TO SUPPORT THE CONTENTION THAT DOS SANTOS IS A LEFTIST. HE IS KNOWN AS A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF PRESIDENT EANES.
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LISBON02421
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770104-1179
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770319/aaaaaqdv.tel
Line Count: 87
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 11033ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2987023
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW VICE CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF
TAGS: MILI, PDIP, PO, (DOS SANTO, JOSE ALBERTO LOUREIRO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/11033ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009